

**Department of Historic Resources  
Reconnaissance Level Survey**

**Accomack**

**DHR Id#: 001-0027-0124**

**Resource Identification**

Property Name(s): ..... WFF # Z-070 - Launch Area #1 {Current}  
Property Date: ..... 1952  
Address(s): ..... Island Road {Current}  
County/Independent City: ..... Accomack  
Vicinity of: ..... Chincoteague  
State, Zip: ..... Virginia 23337  
USGS Quad Name: ..... WALLOPS ISLAND  
Surrounding area: ..... Rural

**National Register Eligibility Status**

Property is Historic (50 years or older)

**Resource Description**

Ownership Status: ..... Public - Federal  
Acreage: ..... 0.5

**Primary Resource Exterior Component Description:**

<u>Component</u>	<u>Comp Type/Form</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Material Treatment</u>
Chimneys	Chimneys - None		
Foundation	Foundation - Slab	Concrete	Foundation - Poured
Porch	Porch - None		
Structural System	Structural System - Masonry	Concrete	other

Site Description: ..... Located on the eastern side Island Road in a level area. The eastern end of the resource is located next to a sea wall. The property is flanked by Z-65 (001-0027-0123) to the north and Z-71 to the south.

**WUZIT Count:**

<u>No.</u>	<u>Wuzit Types</u>	<u>Historic?</u>
1	Air-Related	Historic

**NR Resource Count:**

**Individual Resource Information**

WUZIT: ..... Air-Related

<u>Est. Date of Construction:</u> ....	1952 {Owner/site visit}	<u>Accessed?</u> .....	Yes
<u>Primary Resource?</u> .....	Yes	<u>Number of Stories:</u> .....	0.0
<u>Architectural Style:</u> .....	Other	<u>Condition:</u> .....	Deteriorated
<u>Interior Plan Type:</u> .....	Other	<u>Threats to Resource:</u> .....	Deterioration Neglect

Description: The launch area consists of a 300-foot long by 50-foot wide concrete strip that runs parallel to the sea wall and shore beyond. The concrete strip served as a base for temporary launchers that were rolled onto the concrete strip for the launches that were activated and controlled from the nearby Control Center (Blockhouse #1, 001-0027-0123, WFF # Z-065).

**Cemetery Information**

**Bridge Information**

**National Register Eligibility Information**

Historic Context(s): ..... Technology/Engineering

Historic Time Period(s): ..... S- The New Dominion (1941- Present)

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*Significance Statement:* Built in 1952 under the direction of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA), this launch area served as a launching site for rockets on Wallops Island and was originally referred to as Launch Area 2. The 300' long by 50" wide concrete strip runs roughly parallel with the current sea wall and shore. The launch area is located on the east side of a launching complex that consists of a paved circular drive whose east side connects to Launch Area 2. Blockhouse #1 (001-0027-0123, WFF # Z-065), originally called Control Center 2, is placed in the center of the circular drive while several small support buildings are located throughout the complex. Now part of the Wallops Flight Facility (WFF), the launch complex and Launch Area 1 are located on the east side of Island Road, south of Assembly Shop #1(001-0027-0113, WFF # Y-015) and north of the Launch Control Center (WFF # Z-040 – not included in this survey).

The structure is representative of a Technology/Engineering property type built at the beginning of the New Dominion Period (1945 – present) period. The structure was constructed as a component of a rocket research facility operated by the Pilotless Aircraft Research Station (PARS) under the direction of NACA from 1946 to 1958. Until becoming part of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in 1958, PARS functioned as a rocket research facility that continually refined its capacity to collect aeronautic and scientific data through improvements in radar tracking, radio telemetry, and photographic techniques that provided significant data for the development of Cold War missile technology and manned spaceflight during the Space Race.

Launch Area #1 has been evaluated both as a contributing resource in a historic district and as an individual resource. Issues of significance, integrity, and district boundaries were carefully considered. A proposed district comprising this resource lacks integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association due to the removal of the majority of buildings from the period of significance (1936 to 1959) and the construction of later buildings. Thus a historic district here is not eligible under Criterion A, B, C or D.

The resource is not eligible for listing in the National Register or the Virginia Landmarks Register under Criterion A, B, C, or D. As a secondary resource, it does not by itself sufficiently embody a quality of significance associated with events in order to be eligible under Criterion A, nor does it sufficiently embody a quality of significance associated with a person in order to be eligible under Criterion B. The resource retains its integrity but as a secondary resource of common design and materials, the resource is not eligible under Criterion C as it does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represent a significant or distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. This property does not have the potential for providing additional information in history or prehistory under Criterion D.

***Bibliographic Documentation***

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**DHR Id#: 001-0027-0124**

*Reference #: 1*

*Bibliographic RecordType:* ..... Map  
*Author:* ..... U.S. Navy  
*Citation Abbreviation:* .....  
*Notes:* ..... "Map of Navy Auxiliary Air Station and Naval Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1950.

*Reference #: 2*

*Bibliographic RecordType:* ..... Map  
*Author:* ..... U.S. Navy  
*Citation Abbreviation:* .....  
*Notes:* ..... "Station Development Map – Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Naval Aviation Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1953.

*Reference #: 3*

*Bibliographic RecordType:* ..... Book  
*Author:* ..... Joseph Adams Shortal  
*Citation Abbreviation:* ..... Shortal, 1978  
*Notes:* ..... "A New Dimension; Wallops Flight Test Range: The First Fifteen Years," NASA Reference Publication 1028. National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Scientific and Technical Office: N.p., 1978.

*Reference #: 4*

*Bibliographic RecordType:* ..... Map  
*Author:* ..... Giffels and Valet  
*Citation Abbreviation:* .....  
*Notes:* ..... Giffels and Valet, Engineers and Architects, Detroit, Michigan. "General Plot Plan – Auxiliary Air Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1942.

**Ownership Information**

**Graphic Media Documentation**

<i>Medium</i>	<i>Depository ID #</i>	<i>Photo Depository</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>File Name</i>
35mm B&W	21544	DHR	2004/08/99	Frames 1-17

**Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Events**

*CRM Event # 1,*

*Cultural Resource Management Event:* ..... Reconnaissance Survey  
*Date:* ..... 2004/07/99  
*Organization or Person:* ..... URS Group  
*VDHR Project ID # Associated with Event:* .. 2003-0571  
*CRM Event Notes or Comments:* ..... 200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Suite 101  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

*CRM Event # 2,*

*Cultural Resource Management Event:* ..... Reconnaissance Survey  
*Date:* ..... 2003/08/08  
*Organization or Person:* ..... URS Group  
*VDHR Project ID # Associated with Event:* .. 2003-0571  
*CRM Event Notes or Comments:* ..... 7101 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 700  
Bethesda, MD 20814